

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Hal Shubin, Chair. Present were Trustees Elaine Alligood, Mary Keenan, Matt Lowrie, Heli Tomford, and Jil Westcott, and Director Maureen Conners. Several Belmont Library Foundation (BLF) members were in attendance: Martha Gallagher, President, Elissa Grad, Marcie Schorr Hirsch, Gerry Polcari, Mary Tinkham, Smoke Twitchell, Nick Ypsilantis,

The minutes for the May 8th meeting were approved as amended with the deletion of the phrase "on the hour policy at the library" under Old Business.

Conversations and meetings with town officials and committees were related. Trustees Shubin and Tomford attended the Belmont Center Planning Committee presentation and explained that the combined Police/Light Department site is too small for a library. The suggestion of a library atop a parking garage would deprive merchants of much-needed parking space for a long period of time. Chair Shubin has discussed Mark Clark's letter with Selectman Leclerc, spoken with the Wellington PTO chair regarding addressing that group in the fall, and made plans to meet with School Committee Chair John Bowe.

The trustees and members of the BLF Board present discussed planning for the October 22nd town meeting. Director Conners and Trustees Tomford and Alligood reported on the MBLC meeting in Ashland. If the New Construction Bond Bill is funded, the entire library wait list may be funded with a longer time period, with recipient libraries having more time - perhaps as long as eighteen months - to meet funding requirements for the projects in their communities. All are urged to write Governor Patrick and legislators in support of this bond bill and overall library funding.

With all the expenses facing the town - roads, schools, budget deficits - the question was raised "Do we ask for a building committee in October?" While asking for a building committee gets the ball rolling and demonstrates the need for a new building, the group discussed the many variables in the equation - the timing of the state grant, the report of the Capital Projects Overview Committee with the possibility of a site change for the library, the town's decisions on override ballot questions.

Various points were made: Ms. Tinkham spoke of the compelling urgency that a grant would propel; Director Conners explained the average work time of a building committee and the plans the library has in hand; the grant would be awarded even if there were a site change, if the library program is met. It was agreed that going to the fall town meeting with money on the table would be a huge advantage. However, asking donors to contribute until there are definite plans is very difficult as is asking for a building committee without a state grant which probably will be announced in September.

BLF President Gallagher spoke to fund-raising issues and reported on the suggestion of Nancy Skinner from Jaques & Co. to have a bold idea to get the town's approval of the library project.

BLF officer Hirsch spoke to the fund-raising process and the need for spade work, "cultivation," as well as the knowledge of the parameters of the project. As decisions are made in town, our options will narrow. "Asks" for gifts now are hard to do, especially without a larger BLF board and staff to keep things running. There is a great deal of work to be done - calling possible supporters, coffees, and other activities.

One possible strategy is to target mid-level donors with the understanding they may be asked again later. Another is to capture those who have stepped forward with offers to donate money for a new library. Going to town meeting with \$1M would make a huge difference. Trustee Westcott asked when the smaller contributors should be asked; Director Conners has the opinion of the Town Administrator that state legislation precludes raising funds at the library.

After the BLF group had left, Chair Shubin suggested that a plan would be to have a joint Trustee-BLF committee to map out strategy for the October 22nd town meeting to be ready if a grant is awarded prior to that meeting. Trustees Alligood and Lowrie will represent the board with

individuals to be chosen by the BLF. Chair Shubin will speak with Ms. Gallagher about this. It is imperative that the two groups work together as on the spring PR campaign.

Chair Shubin reviewed the Open Meeting Law presentation. All sub-committee meetings must be posted. There can be no discussion by e-mail and no serial meetings which would be e-mail discussions and replies to "all." Meeting to draft a document is a slippery slope, according to the Kopelman and Paige presenter, as the policy is to post everything, even a meeting of two trustees as a sub-committee or with the BLF. All related e-mails should be on file at the Town Hall. Trustees' meetings may be held with the door closed; a sign on the door would indicate the meeting should anyone wish to attend.

Other Business:

Chair Shubin stated that Director's Evaluations must be completed by the end of this month (June) and sent to him.

The budget for 2008 does include openings on summer Saturdays and on seventeen Sundays (January through May) during the year.

The trustees unanimously approved a motion by Trustee Westcott and seconded by Trustee Alligood that the Belmont Library not serve residents of Saugus which recently closed their library. This is in agreement with past practice.

There was a motion that the library close on June 15th for Staff Day; it was made by Trustee Alligood and seconded by Trustee Lowrie. It passed unanimously.

The trustees on the Union Negotiations Committee - Trustees Lowrie, Tomford and Westcott - will meet with the Librarians' Union to hear their proposals.

At the Town Meeting on June 18th, Trustee Lowrie will answer questions about the Capital Budget item for the circulation desk. Director Connors will speak to the Benton Branch topic.

The next meeting will be TUESDAY, JULY 17TH, at 7:30 p.m.

A motion to adjourn made by Trustee Lowrie and seconded by Trustee Alligood passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary E. Keenan, Secretary